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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Cuba
SUBJECT Opposition Movement in Cuba

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BY CABLE

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The opposition group which attempted an uprising against the BATISTA Government in Santiago de Cuba on 26 July was composed of students, former students, and mercenaries. There is no indication that this uprising was co-ordinated with the opposition group led by Carlos PRIO Socarras, although it is probable that material support and backing came from PRIO. The attempt by the PRIO group had been expected, but the uprising in Santiago has probably disrupted his plans.
2. Communist leaders did not participate in the uprising, nor were they participating in the plans of the PRIO group. However, the Cuban Government is moving against the Communists in an effort to instill the impression that the Communists planned the uprising with the discredited members of the Partido del Pueblo Cubano (PPC, Ortodoxo) and the Partido Revolucionario Cubano (PRC, Autentico). In this way the government hopes to discredit the opposition and gain popular support.
3. Skirmishes are continuing between the Cuban Army and small opposition groups in certain sectors of Oriente Province.

25X1A Comment. An attempt to overthrow the Cuban Government could succeed only if an appreciable number of the armed forces defected to the opposition, or a large majority of the populace defied the government by a general strike and open revolt. These factors, plus government restrictions and controls, make further opposition attempts improbable in the near future. If a revolt were initiated its chances of success are very poor.

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